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THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Norfolk Steward.

In TWO PARTS.

(Price Six-Pence.)



THE . )  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Norfolk Steward  
CONTINUED,  
In TWO PARTS.

Part I. Containing an Account of Mr.  
*LYN*'s private Character, and the  
Methods by which he grew Rich.

Part II. Containing some farther Account  
of Mr. *LYN*'s Management, and also  
of his Stating and Ballancing Accounts.

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Τὸν ἀργυροῦ μόνον βλέποντας.  
Anacreon.

*Quocunque modo Rem.*  
Hor.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for *A. Moore* near St. Paul's: 1728:





# PREFACE.

**T**HE following historical Essays were written as a Sequel to one bearing the same Title, published some time since in the Craftsman, and communicated to that Author; but he having neglected to give them to the Publick, I have thought fit to become the Editor my self. Whether Mr. d'Anvers esteems other Subjects more seasonable at this time; whether he has been intimidated with

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## P R E F A C E.

Prosecutions, or soften'd with Applications, I do not take upon me to determine. I have the pleasure only to assure the Reader, that I have faithfully collected the Facts that are related in these little Tracts, as they have fallen out from time to time, and shall continue to have a watchful Eye over the Actions of our Steward, and to record them for the Benefit of Posterity, that those who come after us at least may be deterr'd by this Example, from intrusting the Management of their Estates to bad Hands. The Memorialist furnishes Materials for the Historian, and so far he has a right to share in his Fame. Perhaps the Character of this most remarkable Steward may, by my means, be preserved thus to future Times; the Indulgence of this

## PREFACE.

this Vanity, and the consciousness of having done what was in my power to expose a corrupt Servant, is all the Reward I claim; as a Man has some little pretence to merit from the Publick, who only crys out, Stop Thief.

But before I take leave of my Readers, I humbly intreat, as they desire to be thought candid, or courteous, or to be obliged with any other Epithets, that the most complaisant Writer ever gave them, That they will be so good not to force the Letters in the following Pages, to convey to them any other Meanings than what they stand for in the Order they are there placed, it being the Nature of the Twenty-four Letters in our Alphabet,

## P R E F A C E.

*Alphabet, as I am inform'd, when they are transposed, to give to the Reader what Ideas the Transposer pleases ; so large is the Field of Innendo's : This Caution might perhaps at any other Time or Place than this appear ridiculous ; but as some People are very tender, and others very censorious, I thought this not an unnecessary Advertisement.*



T O



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# *Caleb d'Anvers, Esq;*

S I R,

I HAVE the Happiness to be Tenant to Sir *George English*, and there is not one among them who has a more hearty Affection for him and his whole Family, than I have. When this Estate (which he now enjoys, and which, Heaven grant, he and his may long enjoy) was first left to him, by the general Attornement of the Tenants, and the Consent and Act of brave Sir *William*, his An-

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cestor, I had the pleasure, as a Witness and a Tenant, to sign the Instrument my self: I saw good Sir *William* ratify it I beheld him soon after expire, and could discern a pleasing Satisfaction in his Features, rising from the Comfort he received in having finished what he believed must make his Tenants the happiest and most easy of any People in our whole County. You will forgive me, Sir, that I thus dwell on the Praise of my good old Master Sir *William*: He was a Man who loved his whole Species, who had a general Benevolence to Mankind; he did not think any Man was born for himself alone, nor could he bear to see any of his neighbouring Landlords use their Tenants ill, or rack them too high; and more than once he has engaged himself in expensive Law-suits, to deliver them from the Hands of the Oppressor. Mr. *Lyn*, of whom I now complain to you, Sir, was one of the Tenants; and tho his little Copy-hold was then not much in repair, and a little incumbered with Debts, however it has been since improved, he pro-

professed himself very zealous, as well as the rest of us, in the Interest of our Land-lord, and continued so some Years : but Time proves every thing ; and a very little while after he was appointed Steward to our old Master, he began to shew himself ; and tho the Affairs of Sir George grew every day worse and worse under his Management, the Affairs of Mr. *Lyn* grew better and better every day. He began to look plump and round ; his little Farm was clear of all Incumbrances ; his Family, his Friends, his Relations, his Acquaintance, all grew plump likewise, and flourished under his Influence : He had indeed been very liberal to them, not out of his own Money, but his Master's : He put them into all the Employments he could find in the several Manors, and very frequently, when there was no Employment ready, or open, or unenjoy'd by any Relation, Friend, or Dependent of his, he was ready to erect an Office, and to give it a Name and an Appointment out of his Master's Rents, without any Con-

sideration how much his Master was in debt, how detrimental it must prove to his Estate, or how ungrateful it was to the Tenants, who saw, and murmured to see, that their Farms were racked to the highest, to support the Family, and other Self-Interests of Mr. *Lyn.* Well, Sir, our Steward grew rich, he grew ambitious and vain, and haughty and humorous ; and now took it into his Head, that he was as accomplish'd a Gentleman even as Sir *George* himself, and would needs be stiled his *Companion* : He dress'd himself up in blue, and used to strut about in Pearl Colour Stockings, a Silk Doublet, and a Cap and Feather, and fancy'd he had enrolled himself among Heroes and Gods, so hard it is for a Man in Prosperity to check the Folly of a vain Mind : some time before this whim of bedecking himself in Taffaty and blue, he had a fancy to appear in Red ; and accordingly one Morning, with a very solemn and grave Countenance, he told several of his Intimates, that

that now he was grown rich, he was resolved to devote himself to the Service of Religion, as a Knight-Errant ; that he would rescue Virgins, protect Orphans, destroy Giants, and do every thing praiseworthy, and becoming the great Office of true Chivalry ; he exhorted his Friends likewise, who were very honest Men, and meant well, to do the same, and told them their Habiliments ought to be all alike, viz. Red Taffaty, Spurs, Feathers, Caps, Faulchions, &c. So said, so done, they dress'd themselves, they swore on the Evangelists to be good and true Knights, they march'd in an affected Stage-strut round the Town, and made a shew in their whimsical Dresses that set all the Parish in a gape. Now one wou'd imagine that Mr. *Lyn* was about to make amends for all his Mismanagement, and that the World, as it had been the worse for him, would be the better too : but this was only a Joke it seems ; for as soon as ever he had persuaded his Companions to this, on a sudden he whipt off his Red Taffaty Doublet, and put on a blue one, as I have said, and called

called himself his Master's Fellow, to the great Surprize of every one. But these Frolicks, you will say, might only take birth from the jocund Levities of a Head a little giddy with Prosperity, the plaisom Gaities, the *dulce desipere* of a Heart swollen with Joy and Power. We will go on then to consider him only in his Character of Steward.

Mr. *LYN* was no sooner got into the Stewardship, but he with very great assurance told his Master, that none of his Tenants had any hearty Affection for him, but himself and his Sons, his Brother *Townly* and his Sons, with their Relations and Intimates; that if it were not for his and their Management, Sir *George* would not be able to make any thing of the Estate. And *Isaac Tombrel*, a Relation to a Relation of Mr. *Lyn*'s by Marriage, had the assurance to affirm before young Squire *English*, Sir *George*'s eldest Son, at dinner at the Mansion House in *Leicestershire*, that the Preservation of Sir *George*'s whole Estate, was

was owing to Mr. *Lyn*; for which, and other unmannerly and indecent Expressions, he was rebuked, disgraced, and sent back into *Norfolk*. Indeed Mr. *Lyn* used frequently in publick to applaud himself for his good Management of the Estate, and to pronounce himself with great Authority, the only Man in *England* who knew how to keep a Rental. He went farther, and frequently declared that was it not for him, and his great Art and Skill, the Tenants would not pay their Rents, that they would forget all Respect and Duty to Sir *George*, or join with Squire *Welsh* in the Law-suit against him. Tho Squire *Welsh* and his Law-suit and Pretensions were very low and despised, and almost forgot by every body; yet Mr. *Lyn* always endeavour'd to make his court to his Master, by assuring him, that several of his Tenants, those I mean who held the largest Farms, and whose Hearts were always with Sir *George*, were secretly Favourers of the Pretensions of Mr. *Welsh*; this, Sir, indeed appears to me one of Mr. *Lyn's* greatest Iniquities,

Iniquities, as I think a Pick-thank in a Family is a most odious Character. But he was resolved to support his Power at the expence of every thing ; and now finding himself, as he imagin'd, at least in trust and confidence with his Master, (which we his poor Tenants hope is not really the case) he raised his Crest, and threw out his natural Bronze. And as Insolence is ever the mark of a little Mind, tho' conscious to himself of more Crimes than any Man but himself can discover, he slighted his Superiors and despised his Opponents. The Parish-Officers, the Assessors and Collectors of the Land-Tax, the Constables, Portreve, and Jurymen, were all his Creatures, Relations, Dependents or Subdependents, such whose Corruption and Consciences he could depend upon. Thus furnished, thus guarded and supported, he ventur'd on, he levy'd Money upon the Tenants on the most ridiculous Pretence : an old Bridge was to be repaired, a new one to be built, the Parish wanted a Set of Bells, a new Pair of Stocks must be provided ; he made them

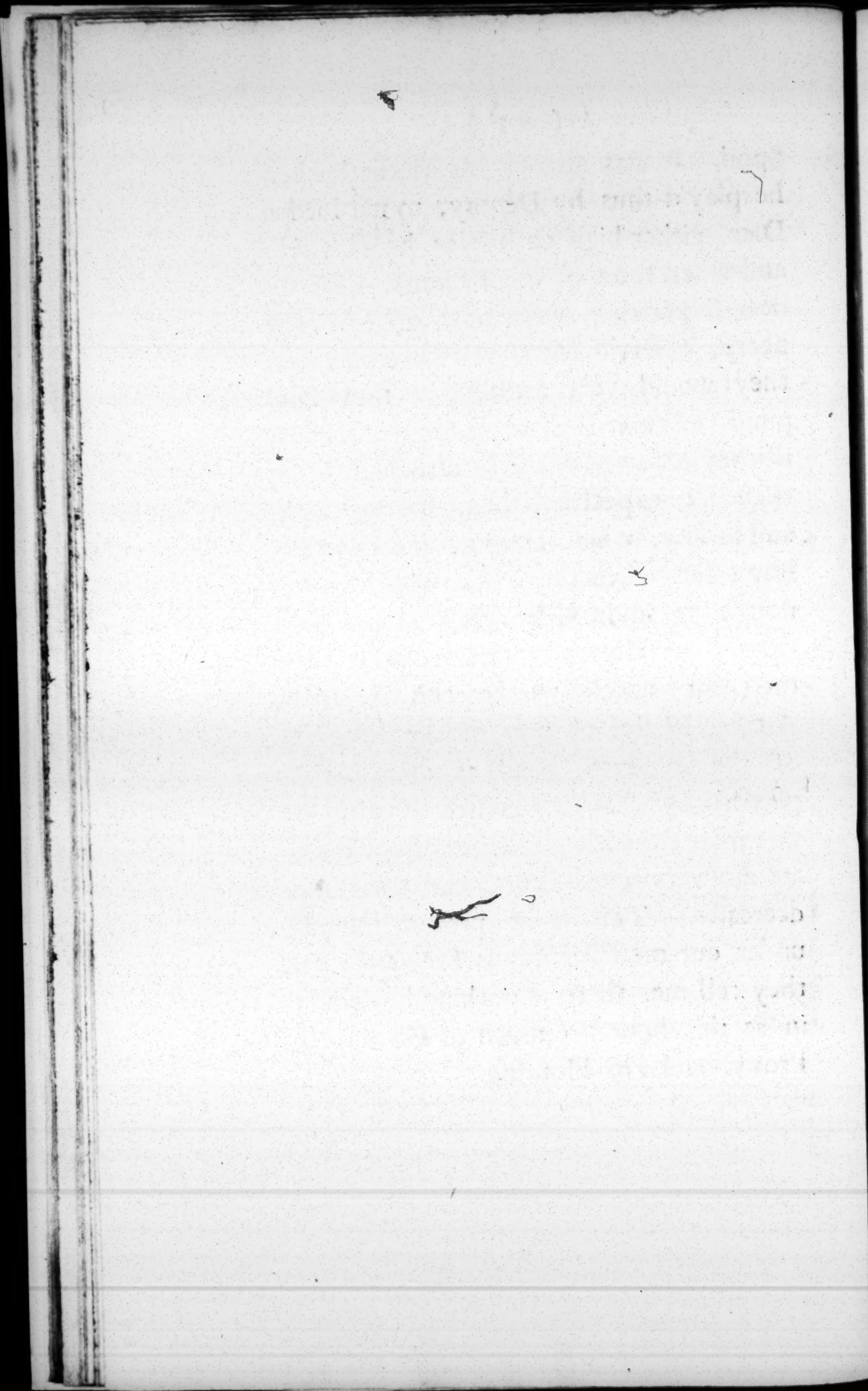
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contribute to the keeping several Packs of Hounds; and sometimes Master *Lyn* wou'd demand a round Sum of Money for private Uses, and such as were by no means proper to be known to the Tenants.

SIR *George* has a Park where his Tenants have time out of mind been permitted to recreate and refresh at leisure Hours, as often as they pleased ; and thro' this Park many of them are oblig'd to pass every day to their Grounds ; Mr. *Lyn*, who valued himself on his Genius for raising Money, order'd his own Man to stand before the Park-gate, and levy a Penny for the Passage of every Man, when Business or Diversions oblig'd him to pass that way ; and this too under the pretence of setting up a pair of Gates only, tho the Money levy'd would new pale the whole Park. And this I mention only to shew you how ready he is at Undertakings of this kind.

HOWEVER, notwithstanding all the Discouragements that the Tenants lay under, they might have thriven even under the Stewardship of Mr. *Lyn*, if he had not with the utmost Art and Application laboured to prevent it. The two greatest and known Enemies to Industry and Trade, are Luxury and Gaming: these he carefully encouraged; and in order to this, he invited the Tenants to a large Gaming-table, which had been erected indeed in another *Robinocracy*, in the very middle of the Market-place. To this Gaming-table the Tenants, when they had disposed of their Wool, their Corn, &c. all hurry'd; and as there is in most Men a Lust after inordinate Gain, many of them play'd, and every day left behind them the Labours of their Industry. But Mr. *Lyn*, ever provident for himself, took care that this should turn to his Advantage; for (tho he never appeared there himself) he always employ'd a few faithful Confidents to play for him, and allow'd them to share in some parts of the Spoil.

Spoil. It was always his Method when he play'd thus by Deputy, to use loaded Dice, either high or low as he fancy'd ; and when some of the Tenants, who by dear Experience were now grown very peery, observ'd Mr. *Lyn*'s Dice in play, they would very artfully, as they imagin'd, set their Dice accordingly ; that is, if they observed Mr. *Lyn* used high Dice, they set expecting them to run high, and so low, when they saw his Dice run low ; but when the Stakes were deep enough to invite Mr. *Lyn*'s Acceptance, they were always invisibly changed upon them ; and he was by this ingenious Artifice Master of part of the Property of the Tenants. And as often as he pleased, by this he amassed Wealth, by this means the Manufactures of our Country are very much hurt, and our Trade decreases. This is at present the case under our most Righteous Steward ; and they tell me, there is nothing he delights in at this hour, so much as Gaming by Proxy, and Fox-Hunting.





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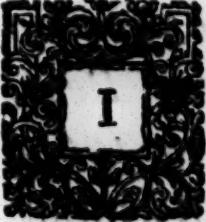
*Caleb d'Anvers, Esq;*

The HISTORY of the  
NORFOLK STEWARD.

## PART II.

*Containing a farther Account of Mr. Lyn's Management; and also of his Method of Stating and Ballancing Accounts.*

S I R,

 Believe my last hath convinc'd you that Mr. Lyn's Management of Sir George's Domestick Affairs, was full as extraordinary as that of his Law-suits with his Neighbours. But perhaps you will

will wonder that he should be suffer'd to go on so long in these Practices ; that he hath not been constantly *presented* every Court-day for so many repeated Misdowings ; or that even all the *Tenants* of the *Mannor* do not unanimously make it their request to Sir *George* (whose Ears are always open to their Complaints) that he would be pleased to remove a Steward whose Management is generally disliked and complained of by all the Tenants. But your Surprize will vanish when you recollect what I have told you in both my former Letters ; that all the *Prime Officers* both of the *Parish* and the *Mannor*, as well as most of the *Jurymen*, were his own *Relations* or *Creatures* ; that a great number of the *principal Tenants* were bribed into his Interest, and that many others, who had honest Intentions, were afraid to oppose a Man, who had it in his Power to *raise their Rent*, *distrain their Goods*, or *turn them out of their Farms* at pleasure, by representing them as *bad Tenants* or *Enemies to their Landlord* ; tho' these very People were the

the best affected to their Landlord, tho they paid their Rents punctually, and had no other demerit, but that they faithfully adhered to what they conceived to be the true Interest of Sir George. In short, it is the peculiar Character of Mr. *Lyn*, That when he took up a Prejudice, however unreasonable, against any of the *Tenants*, he always *made it a POINT* (as he call'd it) to *ruin* them with Sir George, and stuck at nothing to compass his End.

Y E T notwithstanding all this Power, and this extravagant Use of it, there are many Persons of considerable Interest and Figure in the *Mannor*, who have constantly opposed him in all these Proceedings, and have, at present, the Pleasure to see a general Spirit of Resentment rising against him. The Number of his *Opponents* increases daily ; whilst many, some even of *those*, who are *obliged* to act with him, are frequently heard to murmur against his Proceedings, in publick as well as private ; and others who eat his Bread, as he is infrequently

lently pleased to call it, Sir George's Bread, the Tenants Bread he means, hang down their Heads ; and conscious of their Crime in not opposing his Measures, plead guilty to the Charge against him in their Silence.

**T H E** *Freemen* of the Town, where Sir George lives himself, are heartily, almost universally, incensed against him, on divers *Accounts* ; particularly for having introduced several *New Customs* amongst them ; for always interposing his Authority in their *Elections of Parish-Officers* ; for making them pay more for their *Fewel* than the rest of the Tenants ; for refusing to read a *Letter* written in their behalf, on this Account, and replying with an insolent Air, *That he did not care a F---t for the whole Town.*

**G R E A T** Numbers of poor *Tradesmen*, who supplied the late Sir George with Necessaries, are ready to starve for want of the Money, he died in arrear to them on that account ; which is the more extraordinary, because Sir George had always a sufficient Income to keep

a noble House, and pay every body, as indeed he seem'd always inclinable to do; from whence they conclude, That Mr. Lyn embezzled great Sums himself, and squandered away others, for his own Vanity and Grandeur, amongst a worse kind of TRADESMEN than they are. Nay, what adds to the Provocation is, That Mr. Lyn will not satisfy them whether they shall ever be paid or not.

THE neighbouring Country Gentlemen complain of him for engrossing the Game, and forbidding them to hunt, or ride in Sir George's PARKS, as they used to do.

THE Clergy charge him with recommending Men of slow Parts for Preferment in the Church to old Sir George, when any *Livings* fell; of which there was a great Number, during his Life and the Stewardship of Mr. Lyn.

THE Yeomanry grumble for want of Money, the Manufacturers for want of Business, and the poor Labourers for want of Bread; and all impute their Misfortunes, I think, after what has been said,

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not very unjustly, to Mr. *Lyn*, by engaging old Sir George in a needless, expensive and chimerical *Law-suit*, and thereby preventing the usual *Circulation* of Money in Commerce, by diverting it into other *Channels*.

I N short, all Ranks of Men (except a few particular *Creatures* of his own) seem to have their respective Complaints against him, and unite in their Wishes for a *new Steward*.

N A Y, we have a current Report about the Country, that our *present Landlord* (who is a Gentleman of great *Penetration*, and applies himself very much to *Business*) hath been, for some time, of the same Opinion with his *Tenants*; and altho it may not be convenient to discharge him at present, at least till his *Accounts*, which are in the utmost *Confusion*, are audited and settled, yet it is certain that he hath already *clipt his Wings*, and so *short too*, that he is unable to take his *former Flights*.

T H I S hath a little funk his Crest, and soften'd his Behaviour to his *Fellow-Tenants*, tho he still endeavours to keep up his usual Spirit of *Defiance*; but we

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can easily observe, from the frequent Tremulation of his Voice, the faultring of his Accents, his loss of Temper and Confusion in his Sentences, that he is inwardly very much chagrined and disturb'd.

Y O U may remember, I told you, in my first, that Sir George's Estate (when he came to it) was charged with an heavy Debt : And that when Mr. Lyn was call'd upon to give an Account of the great Sums of Money, which had passed thro' his Hands, he always refused to do it, and endeavoured to make a Jest of those who demanded it. But at length, the general Clamour obliged him to consent to some Examination ; upon which it appears, even by his own Account, that his Master's Estate is so far from being the better for his Management, according to his former, repeated Declarations, that it is several hundred Pounds more in debt, than it was before he came into the Stewardship, notwithstanding the great Sums which ought to have been yearly applied towards paying it off.

B U T his manner of stating Accounts is so very extraordinary, that I believe you will think it worth relating.      Mr.

Mr. LYNN hath always boasted, that the *Family-Debt* was very much diminished within these ten or eleven Years past, and defied his Enemies to prove the contrary. Now, in order to see whether this was true or not, it was proposed, first, to state the *Debt*, as it stood eleven Years ago, *in all its Branches*. Then to deduct from it the several *yearly Sums*, which have, or ought to have been paid out of a certain *strong Box*, where the Savings from the Rents, after the Expences of the Family were paid, were constantly laid up, to discharge part of the Mortgage upon the Estate, as it was appointed to do since *that time*; and afterwards to compute the *whole Debt, of every kind*, which the *Family* owes at *present*. It was agreed, I think, that the *Debt, eleven Years ago*, amounted to about 51000*l.* The *strong Box* was said to have produced, since *that time*, about 7000*l.* which reduces the *Debt* (had no *farther Debt* been incurred, as the Phrase in vogue is) to 44000; and, in whatever degree the *present Debt* should appear to be *less than that Sum*, so much, and no more, ought

ought to be allowed to be *really diminished*, since *that Time*, by the Management of Mr. *Lyn*; since he could not pretend to arrogate to himself the Merit of *paying any Sums, which would have paid themselves* had he let them alone.

THIS seem'd to be a fair *Proposal*, as it was generally esteemed; but fair as it was, Mr. *Lyn* demurred to it. At first, indeed, he crack'd, bluster'd, and defy'd, as usual; at length, with much difficulty, he agreed to give in some Account. Accordingly he gave in his *own State of the Account*; and a day was appointed for the *Enquiry*; when that came, he made a *considerable Alteration* in his own Account. And having afterwards acknowledged that he had quite forgot several other *considerable Sums of the Debt contracted*, he run his usual Circle; he asserted, affirmed, deny'd, was positive, was every thing but intelligible; he talk'd in short till he had not only made himself but many of his Hearers giddy. There is not, perhaps, so great a Master in *Europe* of the grand Art of *Bambouſle* as Mr. *Lyn*: The Debt (said he) is incurred,  
but

but not increased ; there are real Debts and nominal Debts ; there are real nominal Debts, and nominal real Debts ; there were real Debts and personal Debts, which the Family must pay ; there are Debts never stated tho incurred, and Debts which tho incurred and stated, might never be paid ; so that upon the whole you see I have paid off a considerable part of the Mortgage upon Sir George's Estate : But when he was told, that tho it was true that part of the Norfolk Mortgage was paid off, yet Sir George was really now as much in debt as before ; because Mr. Lyn, to perform this mighty Deed, had borrow'd just as much upon Sir George's Estate in Leicestershire, as he had paid off in Norfolk, so that the Ballance continued as before ; he broke into a loud Laugh, and told the Tenants they knew nothing of Accounts, nor the difference between a Debt incurred and a Debt increased.

BY the help of these *Distinctions*, and this jumble of *Sophistries*, he struck off one Article of *above three thousand Pounds*, which he asserted to be a *very good*

good Bargain to the Family ; another of almost two thousand, because it was owing to very bad Management ; and a third of one thousand, for no other Reason, than I could hear, than that he did not know how to *justify the contracting* of it, or in what manner to provide for its Payment.

HE had also the Modesty to place another considerable Sum amongst the Debts discharged, within that Time ; which ought really to have been placed amongst those incurred.

IT is likewise worth observing, that Mr. Lyn had previously taken care to puzzle and perplex the Accounts as much as possible, in order to secure himself from Detection, by chopping and changing the Securities into different Hands ; borrowing of one to pay off another ; turning Interest into Principal, and Principal into Interest ; with a thousand other Arts and Stratagems of the same kind ; so that he had a manifest Advantage over Those who were not in the Secret.

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NAY, what is still more extraordinary, he stated his Account of Debts contracted to Christmas last only; whereas he calculated the Sum of Debts discharged to Lady-day next; a Method of stating and ballancing Accounts, which was never before practised or heard of in these Parts!

AND yet after all these Finesse, and Fallacies, and arbitrary Postulata, the present Family-Debt evidently appear'd to be, just as it was eleven Years ago, fifty one thousand Pounds, or thereabouts.

THO it is generally believed here, that this Affair will not redound much to the credit of Mr. Lyn; yet it must be confessed, that his Arithmetical Capacity is really admirable, and that he hath proved himself, beyond all Contradiction, to be a complete Master of Addition, as well as Subtraction.

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To be continued as the Steward goes on.

F I N I S.

1727 A.D.

